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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Thomas B. Sheridan :
Application No. 10/001,362 :
Filed: October 23, 2001 :
Attorney Docket No. S1450/7000 RJK :

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6), filed May 9, 2002, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) for the benefit of prior filed provisional Application No. 60/242,614, filed October 23, 2000.

The petition is **DISMISSED AS MOOT.**

A petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000.

Along with the instant petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6), petitioner has submitted an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title to include a reference to prior-filed provisional Application No. 60/242,614, filed October 23, 2000.

The instant pending nonprovisional application was filed on October 23, 2001, within twelve months of the filing date of prior filed provisional application Application No. 60/242,614, which was filed on October 23, 2000, and for which priority is claimed. While a reference to the prior-filed provisional application was not included in an ADS or in the first sentence of the specification following the title, reference nevertheless was made in the oath or declaration.

The current procedure where a claim for priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5) is not included the first sentence of the specification or in an ADS but does appear either in the oath or declaration or a transmittal letter filed with the application and the Office notes the claim for priority, no petition will be required to accept a late claim for

priority. This is because the application would have been scheduled for publication on the basis of the information concerning the claim submitted elsewhere in the application within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5). However, on the other hand, if the USPTO does not note the claim for priority to the provisional application in the oath or declaration or transmittal letter submitted with the application, a petition will be required to accept a late claim for priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6).¹ In the instant case, the Office noted the claim for priority of provisional Application No. 60/242,614 in the oath or declaration, as shown by its inclusion on the filing receipt.

In view of the above, the \$1,280 petition fee submitted is unnecessary and will be refunded to petitioner's deposit account in due course.

Any questions concerning this decision on petition may be directed to Karen Creasy at (703)305-8859. All other inquiries concerning either the examination procedures or status of the application should be directed to the Technology Center.

This application is being forwarded to Technology Center AU 2123 for processing the amendment filed May 9, 2002 and for consideration by the examiner of the claim under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5) for the benefit of the prior provisional Application No. 60/242,614, filed on October 23, 2000.

Frances Hicks
Frances Hicks
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for Patent Examination Policy

¹ Note 66 Federal Register 67087 at 67089 (Dec. 28, 2001), effective December 28, 2001.